

FACT SHEET

Gunnery Department
MAJ Markovetz: DSN 639-4418
4 October 2001

SUBJECT: Paladin New Equipment Training (NET) Overview

1. The Gunnery Department is the proponent for Paladin NET of both Active Duty and Army National Guard battalions converting to M109A6, Paladin. Since 1994, 22 Active Duty and 18 Army National Guard battalions have converted, retrained and qualified as Paladin battalions. This summer, one additional National Guard battalion will be converted to M109A6 Paladin. Future plans tentatively include conversion of six more Army National Guard battalions.
2. Training Plan. Paladin transition training is three phases, currently conducted over two years.
 - a. Phase I is leadership preparation for transition. The unit sends 27 leaders to attend the Gunnery Department's Paladin Commanders Course. This is a two-week course conducted in advance of the Operator fielding.
 - b. Phase II is maintenance training. Civilian contractors conduct maintenance training during the unit's IDT the second year. Also during Phase II, is 13E (Fire Direction Specialist) and 13B (Cannoneer) preparation training. Paladin NET Team instructors conduct three separate assistance visits during the unit's IDT in preparation for the Operator fielding.
 - c. Phase III is the Operator fielding. Over the course a three-week annual training (AT); the unit conducts one-week of hands-on training, followed by one-week of battery collective training (dry), next the unit conducts a one-day calibration exercise, followed by three days of battery collective training (live), concluding with a one-day battalion live fire exercise and after action review (AAR).
3. Several units have been tentatively identified for conversion from M109A5 to M109A6 Paladin, but their Operator Fieldings have not been officially announced. The 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania Army National Guard is the only unit officially scheduled for conversion from M109A5 to M109A6 Paladin. The unit's Operator Fielding is 4-22 August 2001.